

The opinion in support of the decision being entered today was *not* written for publication and is *not* binding precedent of the Board.

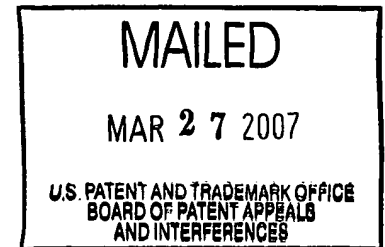
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte TRUNG MINH TRAN

Appeal 2006-3243
Application 09/550,181
Technology Center 2100

Decided: March 27, 2007



Before JAMES D. THOMAS, KENNETH W. HAIRSTON and
JOSEPH F. RUGGIERO, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

HAIRSTON, Administrative Patent Judge.

DECISION ON APPEAL
STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Appellant appeals under 35 U.S.C. § 134 from a final rejection of claims 1 to 11, 13 to 19, and 21 to 40. We have jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. § 6(b).

Appellant has invented a method and apparatus for maintaining state information for Web pages accessed by a client user's browser in a directory server (Specification 11). A background application running on the client's device controls the storage of the Web page state information in the directory server and controls the retrieval of the state information from the directory server (Specification 11 to 13).

Claim 1 is representative of the claims on appeal, and it reads as follows:

1. A method for maintaining state information for Web pages, comprising:

receiving user input to a Web page via a Web browser at a client device;

sending an instruction to store user input and a Web page field identifier in a directory server from a background application running on the client device;

storing the user input and a corresponding Web page identifier in the directory server; and

in response to receiving a user request, via the Web browser, for the Web page, sending a request from the background application running on the client device to the directory server to retrieve the user input and corresponding Web page field identifier, wherein the user input and corresponding Web page field identifier are retrieved from the directory server.

The prior art relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting the claims on appeal is:

Tomko	US 5,790,668	Aug. 4, 1998
Larsen	US 6,088,700	Jul. 11, 2000 (filed Aug. 6, 1999)
Call	US 6,154,738	Nov. 28, 2000 (filed May 21, 1999)
Kavner	US 6,366,947 B1	Apr. 2, 2002 (filed Jan. 20, 1998)

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 7, 9, 11, 13 to 18, 21 to 27, 29 to 33, 35, and 37 to 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based upon the teachings of Larsen and Kavner, the Examiner rejected claims 8, 19, 28, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based upon the teachings of Larsen, Kavner, and Tomko, and the Examiner rejected claims 10 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based upon the teachings of Larsen, Kavner, and Call.

Appellant contends that “[n]either Larsen nor Kavner provide any suggestion to use the background application of Kavner to send user input and a Web page field identifier to be stored in a directory server or retrieve the user input to the Web page that is stored in a directory server and its corresponding Web page identifier” (Br. 14).

We reverse.

ISSUE

Does the applied prior art use a background application running on a client’s device to cause the storage of Web page state information in a

directory server, and does the same background application control the retrieval of the state information from the directory server?

FINDINGS OF FACT

As indicated *supra*, Appellant uses a background application running on a client's computer to store Web page state information in a directory server, and uses the same background application to retrieve the state information from the directory server.

Larsen describes a data processing system that uses stored data to automatically fill in data fields in displayed forms. The data processing system retrieves previously entered tagged information (e.g., a telephone number, social security number, etc.) and automatically inserts the data in similarly tagged fields of a form (Abstract; col. 2, ll. 21 to 37; col. 3, l. 59 to col. 4, l. 16; col. 4, l. 64 to col. 5, l. 3; col. 17, ll. 2 to 8).

Kavner describes a method and system for accelerating a user's access to data. Kavner recognizes that data (e.g., Web page information) retrieved from a local cache can be retrieved faster than data retrieved from an external network server (col. 5, ll. 30 to 38). The user can quickly display the data in the local cache, and, if desired, a background application can contact the server for any changes to the displayed data (col. 5, ll. 7 to 25; col. 11, ll. 28 to 33).

PRINCIPLE OF LAW

In rejecting claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner bears the initial burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness. *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445, 24 USPQ2d 1443, 1444 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

ANALYSIS

The applied references neither teach nor would have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art the use of a background application to control the storage of Web page state information in a directory server, and the use of the same background application to control the retrieval of the state information from the directory server. The form completion teachings of Larsen bear little, if any, relevance to the claimed subject matter. Kavner makes use of a background application, but not for the same purpose as described in the disclosed and claimed invention. Thus, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established by the Examiner. The teachings of the references to Tomko and Call fail to cure the noted shortcomings in the teachings of Larsen and Kavner.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner did not establish a prima facie case of obviousness.

Appeal 2006-3243
Application 09/550,181

DECISION

The obviousness rejections of claims 1 to 11, 13 to 19, and 21 to 40
are reversed.

REVERSED

tdl/gw

IBM CORP (YA)
C/O YEE & ASSOCIATES PC
P.O. BOX 802333
DALLAS, TX 75380